

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02

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R 182039Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3532

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 7195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GT, PORG, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS: STATUS OF CHARTER REFORM

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 5862, (B) STATE 197847

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL A), EMBASSY DISCUSSED CHARTER REFORM WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON AUGUST 19, 1976. ON AUGUST 29 EMBASSY SENT FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE, OPERATIVE PART OF WHICH STATES THAT USG BELIEVES THAT FOLLOWING SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DEVELOPMENT ""...THERE SHOULD BE AN INTERVAL FOR CONSIDERATION OF RESULTS OF SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DEVELOPMENT BEFORE CONVENING SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON CHARTER REFORM. HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF CHARTER REFORM WILL BE NEEDED BETWEEN TWO SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES. GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BELIEVES THAT THIS HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY A NEW GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS RATHER THAN BY AMBASSADORS TO OAS." RE LAST POINT, REASONING BEHIND PROPOSAL WAS FULLY DISCUSSED ON AUGUST 19 BUT WAS NOT DELINEATED IN NOTE.

2. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLY DATED OCTOBER 6, 1976. OPERATIVE SECTION OF NOTE RAEDS, "MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS PLEASURE OF INFORMING UNITED STATES EMBASSY THAT IT AGREES WITH THOSE VIEWS OF YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT AND WILL MAINTAIN THAT POSITION IN PERMANENT COUNCIL WHERE THOSE MATTERS CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL BE DECIDED.

3. "IN REFERENCE TO POINT THAT HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY A DIFFERENT GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INSTEAD OF AMBASSADORS TO OAS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BELIEVES THAT PARAGRAPH 3 OF RESOLUTION ON RESTRUCTURING OF INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM AUTHORIZES PERMANENT COUNCIL OF OAS TO CONVENE A MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES ESPECIALLY DESIGNATED TO REVIEW AND SEEK A WAY TO CONCILIATE DIFFERENT VIEWS AND TO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BECAUSE OF WHICH STATES ARE FREE TO ASSIGN TO THEIR DELEGATIONS ANYONE THEY CHOOSE, INCLUDING (THEIR REGULAR) REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, AS IN FACT HAPPENS IN SUCH CASES.

4. "NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA IS QUITE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE POINT SO THAT COURSE OF REFORM PROCESS DOES NOT BECOME DISPUTATIOUS, BUT RATHER, TO CONTRARY, EFFORTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE OAS MAY BE JOINED TO ACHIEVE A NEW DOCUMENT WHICH STRENGTHENS AND REINFORCES OUR GREAT REGIONAL ORGANIZATION..."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM07195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760391-0241
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761042/aaaabkcq.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GUATEMALA 5862, 76 STATE 197847
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS: STATUS OF CHARTER REFORM
TAGS: PORG, GT, US, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006